

From the Commander

By Nestor Tamayao



Like many of you, I can't believe it is March already. It

seems like just a month ago was when I took the reins of this position. I guess time flies when you are busy.

When I first started as commander, I had several goals I wanted to meet. One was getting "inactive" members to attend a post meeting and/or the monthly social. I've had a couple of members do that but not to the extent I had hoped for. I even reached out via a special card invitation to one member (as an experiment). I ran into that member afterward and the member acknowledged getting the card and thanked me for it. But, that member has yet to appear.

If you are reading this and you are one of those

"inactive" members, please consider coming to a meeting or social whenever possible. Also, those members who used to come regularly to meetings but slowly faded away once they received a lifetime membership; come back to the meetings, if even periodically. We need members' active participation with the post. The dynamics of our post is ever-changing and new challenges abound. Our membership base is dwindling and we need to recruit new members. We need to recognize and accept new ways of doing business regarding recruiting and keeping the post active and vibrant so that members feel a sense of belonging. As our post ages, it will be encountering infrastructure issues which will require planning and decision-making. All these I've mentioned need members who will serve as a line-officer, trustee, and to work on a

committee.

In the old days, there was a lot of participation by post and auxiliary members. But that was then, and today there is a real need for members to be active contributors to the post. If we are having a fundraiser and you can help, that's contributing. If we have a post cleaning detail, for example, and you can be a part of the team to clean the grounds, do some maintenance or other jobs, that's contributing.

The post can't operate by itself and certainly should not rely solely on the commander and quartermaster for its operation. For those members who are currently active as an elected or appointed officer, trustee, committee member, or part of a team like the honor guard, my thanks for your efforts in "keeping the ship on a steady course."

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Please complete post fundraising survey!

Post leadership wants to focus on holding one fundraising event a year. Fundraising events are beneficial to the post but with too many events planned by a small number of people, it becomes a chore for those involved. Please fill out this online survey to choose what type of fundraising event you prefer. Want to be involved in the planning of a fundraiser? Attend the post business meetings on the first Thursday of the month. Thank you for your participation!

<https://goo.gl/forms/9ZAsPjorQnCsCYV02>



The **Ballard Eagleson Patriot** is published by the newsletter editor for Post 3063, Seattle, WA. This official newsletter is an authorized publication for members of Post 3063. Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the newsletter editor. Its contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the VFW.

This newsletter is published monthly and submissions must be received by the editor five days before the last day of a month for inclusion in the next month's issue. We reserve the right to edit submitted articles for timeliness, clarity, and syntax. Be aware that newsletter images and/or text appearing on the website may be shared by readers.

Commander: Nestor Tamayao

Sr Vice Commander: Pete Krawitz

Jr Vice Commander: Joe Tiffany

Quartermaster: Harold Rodenberger

Adjutant: Pete Krawitz

Judge Advocate: John Hoglund

Chaplain: Bill Griffith

Surgeon: Justin Mamallo

Officer of the Day: Mike Mahar

3-Year Trustee: Aaron Stoltz

2-Year Trustee: James Williams

1-Year Trustee: Russ Seelig

Service Officer: Gail Engler

Guard: Vacant

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<http://www.vfwseattle.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost3063>

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Quartermaster's Update

By Harold Rodenberger



A recent health scare reminded me that I'm mortal. Like most people, I

know in my head that I will die, but this event brought awareness to the depths of my heart, that I WILL die, perhaps soon.

What to think and do at a time like this?

As I've gotten older I've come to realize that accumulating things is less important than doing what I can to better the lives of my family, my VFW family and others in my community. A life-threatening event like this reinforces those feelings.

Most of us in the VFW have long-lasting memories and even friendships dating from when we served our country in a war zone. As we get older, we might let those guide us in helping the soldiers of our generation and others who came before or after. We share a common bond that should bridge personal, and even political, differences allowing us to do as much as we can to help others, particularly our comrades in arms and their families.

As for me, for as many days as I have left in this life, I resolve to do as much as possible to repay previous kindnesses, help those needing

help, share my good fortune with others and "pay forward" (as the current slogan goes) the help I've received over the years.

Speaking of forward, let's look forward to the coming season.

The ides of March soon will be upon us. Instead of a warning, I like to think of the day as a harbinger of the outdoor time of the year. Urging us to draw in a deep breath of fresh air, enjoy the lengthening days and break out of the doldrums of winter.

Our post has exciting plans, including some new and some old events that will motivate you to attend:

- Another American Flag retirement ceremony, this one on Flag Day, June 14, 2017.
- Another shredder party if there is enough interest. Let me know if you have papers to shred.
- More visitations to the VA and other hospitals and homes.
- A special fund raiser for our post relief fund.
- Another care package assembly and packing party.
- Fresh new menus and interesting guest speakers during our social nights.
- Special Memorial Day activities.

This month brings first nominations of officers with

second nominations and elections next month, Good officers make a good post. Help us elect the best.

Chef Kay will cook corned beef and the trimmings for this month's social. It's the day before St. Patrick's Day so plan to attend and celebrate the occasion.

Beginning this month, we will host a weekly yoga class for our members and families. Sharon Jensen, long-time student of yoga, has retired from her practice as a physician and now teaches yoga. She has advanced qualifications for working with veterans and their families. Please wear loose fitting clothing, bring a small blanket to cushion your knees and a yoga mat if you have one. If you would like to try yoga but can't easily get on and off the floor, please come anyway. We will have chairs and adaptations available for you.

We welcome you to Sharon's classes each Wednesday morning beginning March 22 from 8 to 9 a.m. in our hall.

Active members are the backbone of this post. Please join in and make our backbone stronger.



Post adopts Boy Scout Troop 80, donates \$200 for camping gear

By Gail Engler

Post 3063 has adopted Boy Scout Troop 80 in Magnolia. We plan to work with them to sponsor an Eagle Scout for the VFW's Scout of the Year program.

Post 3063 member Elizabeth Servey and her husband Brian are Boy Scout Leaders for Troop 80 so this is why we chose to sponsor this particular troop since we already had a relationship with them through Elizabeth. Roger Wiley is the Scout Master for Troop 80.

The Serveys have two boys, Andrew and James, who belong to Troop 80. James and Andrew and other Scouts and Girl Scouts have participated with Post 3063 members when we visited patients at the VA hospitals so we already have a good working relationship with Troop 80.

In addition, the Post voted to donate \$200, which will help the troop purchase much needed camping equipment to use on their many outdoor adventures.

The post looks forward to working with Troop 80 on other projects in the future.



Post 3063 Service Officer, Gail Engler, presents a \$200 donation to Troop 80.

Post reps attend state's 70th Annual Mid-Winter Conference

By Nestor Tamayao

The Department of Washington 70th Annual Mid-Winter Conference took place on Jan. 20 and 21, 2017 in Vancouver, Wash. Those who attended the conference along with me were Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger, Senior Vice-commander / Adjutant Pete Krawitz, Trustee James Williams, Service Officer Gail Engler, Assistant QM Joe Fitzgerald and House Committee member Doug Maines.

The conference serves to provide updates to posts statewide and provide training opportunities. There was a post service officer training session, two phases of recruiting training and a quartermaster class. At the general business sessions, chairpersons of 27 committees provided updates of their respective committees, such as federal legislation, audit, inspections, public relations, POW/MIA and many others. The business session

allowed candidates to inform the membership of their intent to run for office for which the elections will be held at the Summer Convention in Olympia in June. Also, pertinent information was disseminated from the State Commander and from the Council of Administration.

A highlight of the conference was the Voice of Democracy Banquet. High school students who were top finalists at each district in the state vied for the top prize of an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Competition for a \$30,000 scholarship. The Department of Washington winner was Erica Roloff, who was sponsored by District 3. She will represent Washington State at the National competition. Danika Nolton, who placed 1st at District 2 (which Post 3063 is a part of) placed 5th at the State level.



Officer Profile: Gail Engler, Post 3063 Service Officer

Tell us about your new position and what you hope to accomplish during your term.

As Post 3063 Service Officer I help members and their family members file for disability claims and also try to educate and inform members about their veterans benefits. I am especially interested in making sure our senior and elderly veterans are aware of the Aid and Attendance benefit which can help pay for assisted living if they qualify. I am at the Ballard Senior Center the 3rd Thursday of each month for several hours and available at the post by appointment as needed. I also visit several of our WWII Veterans who reside in retirement homes and assisted living.

How long have you belonged to Post 3063 and did you previously serve in an officer position?

I joined Post 3063 in October 2009. I am now a VFW Life Member thanks to the generosity of Post

3063. I previously served as a Trustee for Post 3063.

What is your military background?

I joined the Army in 1975 right after graduating from high school. I was on active duty until June 1977 and was a Radio Operator, serving in the small town of Schwabisch Gmuend, Germany. It was quite an adventure going from a smallish town in Montana to a small town in Germany. I was assigned to HQ, 56th Field Artillery Brigade. I enjoyed traveling throughout Europe while there and my mom even traveled by herself all the way from Montana to come visit me. That was nice considering she was quite reluctant for me to join the Army in the first place. My dad didn't "protest" too much about my joining the service. He was a WWII Veteran—a Marine who fought on Okinawa. I am so humbled by these courageous WWII Veterans and their service during such a horrible war.

After my active duty service I got out and six months later I joined the Army Reserve. It was a good way to help pay for college in addition to having the camaraderie of belonging to a "select" group of people.

I also was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in 2004, serving with an Engineer Battalion while living in Missoula, Montana.

I retired from the Army Reserve in June 2015 and also from my civil service career where I served as a Military Technician since 1996. My last duty station was in Marysville, WA with the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

What do you enjoy most about belonging to the VFW?

I like helping people so I enjoy being a service officer. There are many great people in our post and I enjoy working together with them to help our fellow veterans, those who are currently serving and their family members and to make our community a better place. I think we all have a responsibility to do so.



VFW District 2 Fundraiser

Please join us for Dinner -
Chicken Alfredo and all the fixin's

Saturday, April 8th, 2017,

at Rainier Post & Auxiliary #2289,
6038 S. Pilgrim St. Seattle, WA 98118

Social at 4:00, Dinner at 5:00pm

Loyalty Day Speech after dinner.

Raffles and "Karaoke by Kami" to follow!

\$20.00 Donation. \$10.00 for Children

See a District 2 member for tickets or call Richard & Barbara Moore at
425-271-2948.





The Auxiliary Corner

Here ye, here ye, the time has come when all good ladies and gentlemen need to come to the aid of their Auxiliary. We are looking for a few good applicants to come and join us to help work with and support our service men and women.

Our group gets together at Post 3063 every first and third Thursday of the month. On the first Thursday we have our meetings at 5:30 p.m. and we serve a light dinner. On the third Thursday we have our social and serve a great dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Please feel free to call me at 206-412-7384 if you have any questions about joining or if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

Margaret Philips

President, Post 3063 Auxiliary President



John R. Shrewsbury, World II Vet, passes away at 101



Photo of John and Helen Shrewsbury before World War II.

John R. Shrewsbury, a veteran of World War II and post member, passed away at the age of 101 on Dec. 28, 2016. His ashes were interred at Evergreen Washelli inside the Doughboy statue.

In World War II, John served in England, France, and Germany after training at Fort Lewis. In his later years, he was a resident of the Norse Home in Ballard and post members would often pay him a visit.

The Ballard News Tribune published a feature about his life for his 100th birthday and you can read about it online at

www.ballardnewstribune.com/2015/12/16/features/large-ballard-ballard-love-texan-style.

Download the VFW App to put resources at your fingertips

Courtesy of VFW.org

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is proud to announce the launch of its new mobile app. VFW Launches Mobile App Insert

The official app of the VFW puts the power of the nation's largest organization of combat veterans directly in users' hands. The streamlined app provides instant and complete access to information on our assistance programs and services, allows users to find VFW Service Officers and Posts based on geolocation and



more, all while keeping users up to date on news that impacts veterans, service members and their families.

The app also allows VFW members to manage their membership, recruit new members and gain access to exclusive content. Download the app today and put all the resources the VFW has to offer at your fingertips!

The VFW mobile app is available for Apple and Android users and can be found by searching "VFW" in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or by direct download here: [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play Store](#)



Upcoming Events

March 2, 2017, 7 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Business Meeting: build-your-own sandwiches with the trimmings

March 16, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - VFW Post 3063 Social Dinner: Corned beef, roasted potatoes, braised carrots, buttered steamed cabbage, Irish soda bread and Irish coffee. Dessert TBD. **Guest Speaker: Cindy Kartes, VFW accredited service officer, who will discuss VA benefits** (\$3 for members, \$5 for guests)

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for business meetings and social dinners.

March Birthday Greetings!

Members receive a free social dinner in their birthday month

Orville Anderson
Richard Ast
Vincente Cardenas
Sean Digre
John Fisher
William Griffith
Carl Lothrop
Orville Mall
W.R. Mattock
William Mattson
Pio Park
John Simpson
Vladimir Skrivanic
Jesse Starkman
Roger Stevens
Daniel Stokke
Bryce White

New member spotlight: Welcome four newcomers!



Ed Westing, U.S. Army Air Corps veteran, gained his eligibility from the WW II Pacific Theater.



Miles Coble, U.S. Army veteran, gained his eligibility from Afghanistan.



Paul Park, U.S. Air Force veteran, gained his eligibility from Afghanistan and Korean Defense.



Bryce White, U.S. Marine Corps veteran, gained his eligibility from Afghanistan and Iraq.